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BYE 0055-77

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10 AUG 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with the Secretary of Defense  
9 August 1977

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1. The Secretary described his alternate plan for a communications security organization as being developed in the PRM on [redacted]. He envisaged the Government sector continuing to remain under DOD; a new group for the private sector being set up under [redacted] and the NSC coordinating the whole thing. I gave my general support to this alternative to the one proposed in the last PRC meeting in which [redacted] would be in charge of all COMSEC.

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2. The GAO investigation of the NRO. We agreed to study further with our Legislative Counsels whether, if we can ascertain that there in fact is no Congressional support for this investigation and in fact gain assurances that the appropriate committees will support our not having such an investigation, we will be able to turn the GAO off. In view of the absence of many Congressional leaders, it may be awhile before we can make any approaches to them in any event. In the meantime, the OLC should work with the OLC of the Defense Department on this.

Note that the subsidiary consideration here is that the House Appropriations Committee's S&T group has already done a good look at NRO and this should obviate any requirement for another one.

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STANSFIELD TURNER  
Director

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